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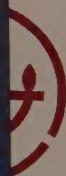
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A BOOK OF PRAYERS

Written for use in

AN INDIAN COLLEGE

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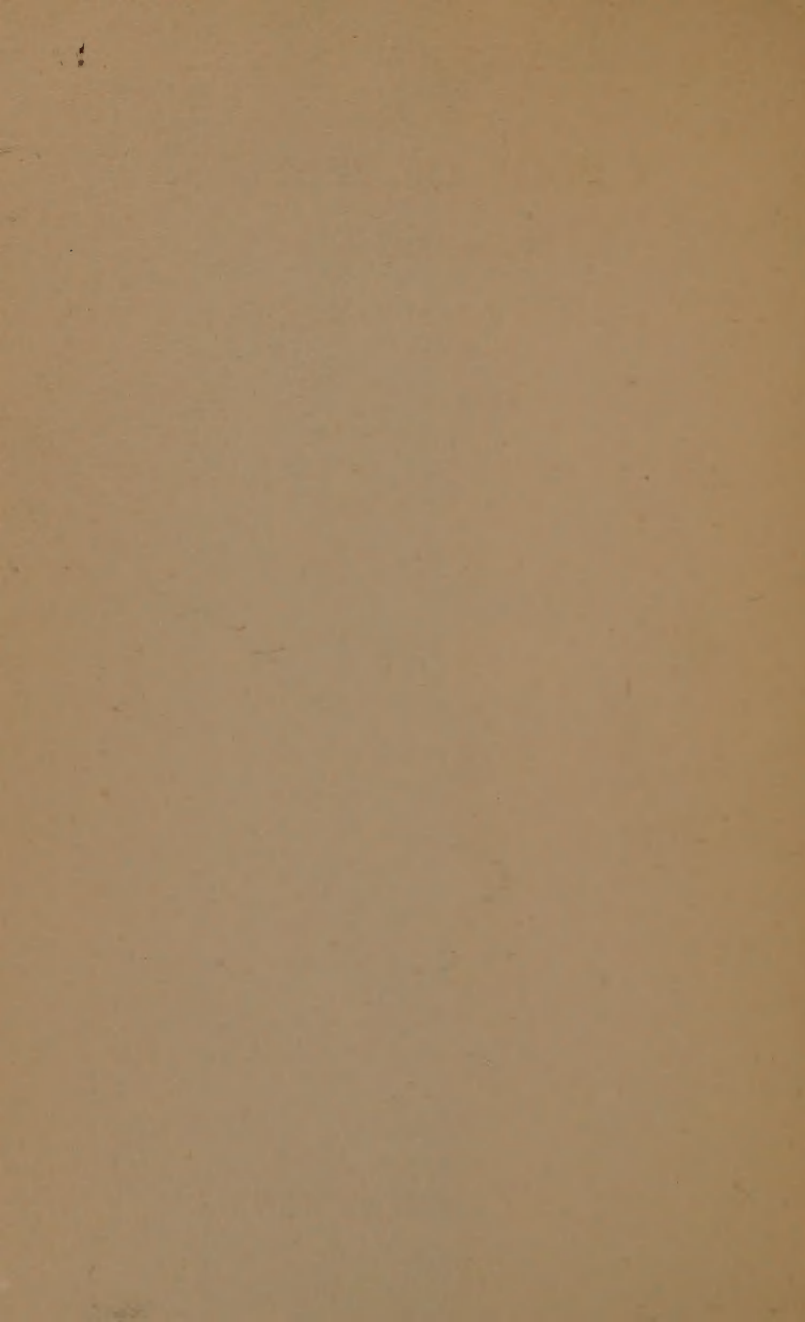


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A BOOK OF PRAYERS

Written for use in
AN INDIAN COLLEGE

BY
J. S. HOYLAND

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FOREWORD

The debts owed by the writer of these Prayers to Rabindranath Tagore, and to one or two other modern authors, will be clear to anyone reading this book. The Prayers were written to express the "searchings after God" of men belonging to several differing religious systems.

DEDICATED

TO

H. H.

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FOR THE NEW YEAR.

Lord of all new life,
We pray thee for this new year,
That in it we may be renewed in thine own life,
And walk through it in thine own companionship.

We pray thee for new freedom of spirit,
New zeal in thy service, new forgetfulness of ourselves
New power to forsake the lower path,
And to climb ever upward to the heights.

We pray thee for a new breaking down of barriers this year
Between man and man, race and race, nation and nation.
We pray thee for a new thinning of the obscurity
Which hides thee from the dim eyes of men.

O Father, in this new year
Lift us out of this stagnant morass of delusion,
Where we are choked in the muddy depths,
Content with an existence which is one long death.

Lift us out and away into the clear glory of thy presence
Where the darkness is cleansed from our eyes,
Our form is changed, and—whilst still dwelling in the flesh —
We meet thee, day by day, face to face, in Eternity.

THANKS FOR NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Master divine,
We thank thee for all new beginnings,
For this new day
With its new opportunities of service for thee and communion with thee.
We thank thee for landmarks passed
And new vistas opening ahead ;
For new hope and new inspiration,
New national awakening, and new desire to serve our time
and our country.

We thank thee that, to those who love thee,
The best is ever yet to be :
That, if we abide in thee, we can never grow old,
For thou, our Master, art eternally young,
Eternally radiant with the joyful energy, the freshness and buoyancy of youth.

We thank thee for the sacred elixir of thy Spirit,
Which wardeth forever from those who love thee
All weariness of soul, all carking anxiety,
All discouragement in failure,
All old age of the soul.

FOR POWER TO SERVE.

Master of men,
 Teach us this day how to serve our fellows,
 Show us thyself incarnate once again
 In the starving, the plague-stricken, the out-cast.
 Give us an unappeasable desire
 To heal, to feed, to uplift.

Teach us to tear off the thick folds of disguise—
 The meanness, the impurity, the beast-nature—
 Which hide in sinful man thy perfect image.

Show us first of all our worthlessness,
 Our own need of thee, our own miserable failure
 To live as thou would'st have us live.

Then give us the keen eyes of love, that in the basest
 Can pierce unfailingly through all disguise,
 And discover thy likeness concealed within.

Give us an unquenchable resolution,
 All our lives through, to regard above all other duties
 The duty of service to thy needy ones.

May we spend ourselves in an unceasing endeavour
 To set thyself free in them,
 To release them into the freedom and fulness of true man-
 hood,
 Into that land of purity and joy,
 Where the beast in man perishes,
 And the God stands forth clearly revealed.

FOR COURAGE AND SELF-SUBJECTION.

Give us, O God, the power to go on,
To carry our share of thy burden through to the end.
To live all the years of our life
Faithful to the highest that we have seen,
With no panderings to the second-best,
No leniency to our own lower selves,
No looking backward,
No cowardice.

Give us the power to give ourselves,
To break the bread of our lives unto starving humanity,
In humble self-subjection to serve others,
As thou, O God, dost serve thy world.

FOR A SHARING OF GOD'S WILL.

Father,

We pray thee for the settled purpose and the single mind,
Which come from the subordination of our wills to thine.

We pray thee for so complete a harmony of purpose with
thyself

That conflict may never for one moment arise :

But that, knowing instinctively what is thy way,

We may embark upon it joyfully, of our own free will,

(However lonely and barren the prospect),

Not because it is thy way for us,

But because we ourselves desire it with wills that are thy
will.

We pray thee for the complete self-surrender,

Which is in itself perfect self-fulfilment,

Because our will, becoming thine,

Is gloriously clothed upon with eternal liberty,

Bearing lordship with thee over the stars in their courses,

Yet rejoicing to serve as a slave

The lowliest of thy little ones.

Father, whose will we thus crave for our own,

Give us thy steadfast fortitude of purpose :

Give us thy keen insight into motive and issue,

So that we may distinguish unerringly

The lower from the higher sequence of action :

Give us thy never-flagging zeal of loving sacrifice :

Give us thy utter disregard of result or reward.

FOR GOD'S REVELATION OF HIMSELF.

God, who in every land and every age
 Hast with divine compassion and divine desire
 Sought to reveal thyself unto man :
 Thou who hast shown thyself unto all
 Who truly have sought for thee with humble self-renouncing
 consecration,—

We beseech thee that unto us this day thou wilt reveal
 thyself.

We stand here, O Father.

Heirs of all the ages of thy creative effort,
 Fruit of all the conflict, the hard-won progress, the sacrifice
 the agony of the past :

We stand erect—for one brief moment—on the crest of thy
 history.

Unto us, O Father, without whom the past has no meaning,
 Unto us, without whom the future has no existence
 Unto us, the men of thy world to-day,
 Reveal thyself.

Our lives are bought for us by a million million deaths :
 We are as brief cities founded on the ruins of a thousand
 forgotten dynasties :

In our bodies, frail emanations, which a breath may destroy,
 Is stored—ah, so insecurely—all the rich treasure of thy
 divine activity.

Therefore, O Craftsman divine,
 Have mercy upon thy handiwork.

Reveal unto us thyself,
 Else we perish forgotten, drowned in desolate oblivion.

THANKS FOR GOD'S GIFTS.

Lord of our lives,
 We thank thee that in thyself all beautiful things reach
 their perfect consummation,
 All pure joy, of sight, of touch, of sound,
 All clean laughter, all simple grace.

We thank thee that in thyself—and so alone—
 Is revealed the true beauty of flower and hill,
 Of human love, of joyful laughter, of children's innocence
 Of sunset, of song, of caress.

We thank thee for thy divine compassion,
 For thy great heart of love,
 Which careth for us, even for us,
 So weak, so cowardly, so selfish.

We thank thee for the treasure laid up with thee in heaven,
 For the incorruptible things that are in thy keeping,
 For the love of those who love now perfectly, omnipotently,
 eternally,
 Because they are safe with thee.

We thank thee for the ineffable sufficiency of thy spirit—
 Thy spirit in whom their spirits dwell secure,
 In whom they are ever with us
 To comfort, to fortify and to guide.

FOR SHELTER IN GOD.

Lover divine,
 Breath of our life, soul of our souls,
 For whose companionship, strengthening and ennobling
 Gracious, winsome and lovable,
 We yearn unspeakably,—
 Visit us, we beseech thee, this day.

We perish in our need of thee ;
 Poor, forsaken, helpless,
 What is there in life for us save thyself ?

Send upon us restless discontent,
 Harassing lack of ease, poverty and grief,
 Until we are driven, like birds tossed in the tempest.
 To take shelter in thy love.

Shake us loose, by thy storm-wind of pain and loneliness
 From the dull thickets where now we dwell,
 Easily content with the things that perish.

Drive us forth into the night,
 Buffet us fiercely hither and thither,
 Spare us not, dash us to earth,
 'Midst rocks and torrents, bruised, broken and torn
 That so at last, with shattered wings,
 We may creep into the hollow of thy hand.

For there, in the all-repaying, all-redeeming, all-glorifying
 delight of thy presence,
 Shall we find a joy of which we dreamt not,
 A love infinitely surpassing all earthly loves,
 A rest and a home for ever.

THANKS FOR GOD'S GUIDANCE IN THE PAST.

Saviour,
 We thank thee for the past,
 For all the way thou hast led us,
 Thorny, dark and lonely though it has been.

Far in the deep forests,
 When night fell swiftly upon us,
 And hurrying storm-clouds shut out all glimpse of the light,
 When we were stricken and stumbled and fell
 Among rocks and ravines and the thick tangled under-
 growth :
 When we were lost and alone, sore wounded, desolate and
 afraid :
 Then, oh, then, didst thou find us :
 Then, oh, then, didst thou whisper unto us very sweetly the
 words of thy love.

Very lovingly didst thou lift up our head,
 Minister wisely unto our hurt's need,
 Set thy arm around us, lift very tenderly our weight,
 Guide our tottering footsteps very gently along the way ;
 Till, with infinite patience and care,
 Thou hadst brought us safe to thy home,—
 To that dear home, lowly and beautiful,
 Whose light shines brightly abroad through the mist and the
 rain.

And there, O wondrous delight,
 As we stumbled dumbly across the threshold
 Still fast in thy arm's support,
 On ■ sudden we found—ah, joy, how surely we found—
 Safe in thy home, all we had lost,
 All we had wept for and yearned for,
 All we had dreamt gone from us for ever,
 All the infinite good that we had not, and needed so sorely.

FOR GUIDANCE.

Father,
 The path ahead is dark,
 And we know not where thou wouldst have us to go.
 Give us, oh, give us, thy gracious guidance
 And a tranquil trust in thy love,
 That we may walk forward through the gloom,
 Unfaltering, fearless and confident,
 Having within us that divine light
 Which maketh clear as day the darkest midnight,
 Guiding the traveller who shall trust in thee
 Safe through impenetrable forests and over trackless
 mountains.

FOR A SHARE IN THE WORK OF REDEMPTION.

Saviour divine.

Who perpetually for suffering humanity

Dost bear the burden,

The dread, relentless burden of redemption,

We pray thee that we thy servants to-day

May with these weak hands

Uplift a little corner of the weight which crushes thee.

Grant unto us that we may share in thy holy mystery of
pain,

Thy sacrament of agony,

Which redeemeth the world.

Give us courage of heart.

That we may drink with thee a little of thy cup,

Thy bitter cup of humiliation, of loneliness, of suffering.

Help us to see thee as thou art,

Incarnate in the starving, the disease-stricken, the hopeless:

Give us grace in serving them to serve thee.

In our own loneliness and pain,—

If thou bestowest upon us these the tokens of thy fellow-
ship,—

Help us to pay honestly, unstintingly and bravely

Our part of the great price,

Which of old and forever thou, O our God,

Payest in man for man.

Ennoble us this day with a share in thy work of redemption.

FOR GOD'S SELF.

Master, omnipotent and eternal,
At the entrance of this new day we would bow ourselves
before thee,
Acknowledging our own utter worthlessness
And thy excellent purity and glory.

Yet, O our Master, miserable as we are,
We have courage to claim from thee—
From thee, Lord of all worlds,—
Thyself.

O Master, utterly beloved,
Served so faithlessly,
Yet with such ardent desire for faithfulness,
We thy slaves perish this day in despair,
If thou give not unto us unstintingly
Thyself.

THANKS FOR SUFFERING.

Lord,

We thank thee for thy loving-kindness,
Which strippeth a man naked that he may be clothed anew
in thy garment of joy.

We thank thee for thy ministers, sorrow and pain,
Which leave us no refuge but thyself.

We thank thee for darkness and the horror of night,
Which force us like little children to slip our hands into
thine.

Above all we thank thee for thyself
In whom our souls live and move and have their being,
Without whom they perish ;
For thou alone art our eternal life,
Our never-failing treasury of love and joy,
Our solace, our stay, our friend in life and in death.

FOR FITNESS TO BE GUESTS AT GOD'S BANQUET.

We thank thee, our king, for a new day,
 For a new pouring forth of thy wine of life,
 For a new bidding to thy feast,—
 To the eternal triumph-banquet of thy kingdom,
 Wherein we on earth and they thy beloved in heaven,
 May conjointly be glad and rejoice,
 Sharing the divine revelry
 The melody, the rapture of perfect delight.

Give us, we pray thee, the simplicity and purity of little
 children,
 That, nothing questioning, we may gather gladly,
 With thy whole family in heaven and earth,
 Round this thy table of a new day.

Make thin, O Lord, make very thin the veil
 Which divideth us who are yet in the flesh
 From those others, our fellow-guests,
 Who feast with us, unseen by our outward eyes,
 But to be beheld how wondrously,
 In what clear glory of deathless perfection,
 When thou dost enlighten the eyes of our spirit,
 With the eternal radiance of thine own presence.

FOR SERVICE TO PERFORM.

Lord of life and death,
 We, thy slaves and the work of thy hands,
 Come unto thee to ask for thy grace this day.
 That, being breathed upon by thy spirit,
 We may be ordained thy ministers,
 And go forth to serve thee all the day long
 Faithfully, humbly, victoriously.

Make us, O Lord, thy tools,
 Existing only to work thy will,
 Shaped to thy hand, marked with the sign of thy toil and
 thy weariness.

Give us heavy labour to do for thee,
 Labour exhausting, monotonous, discouraging.
 That our wills may be forged in thy furnace
 To ■ steady resolution,
 To ■ merciless intolerance of every selfish interest,
 To ■ capacity for continuous and unrelenting exertion
 In the cause of thy kingdom.

THANKS FOR HUMAN LOVE.

Father,
 We thank thee for human love,
 Which in its perfection is its own guarantee of its
 own immortality,
 Its own bestower of its own deathless fruit :
 For thou, O Father, art love :
 And thou art eternal !
 And all pure love, loved in thee,
 Is for eternity.

We thank thee that, here and now,
 The barriers crumble before the divine blast of this love.
 The grave is vanquished and yields up its dead.

We thank thee that the immortal union in thee
 Hath now its marriage-bells :
 For death is life in those who love, however feebly, in thyself.

THANKS FOR GOD'S PATIENCE.

Lord of mercy, of love,
 We thank thee that thou lovest us even for our weaknesses
 And for our utter need of thee,
 As we also love those whom thou hast given us,
 Not alone for their power and virtues,
 (Else who of us would be much beloved),
 But even for their weaknesses, their foolishnesses,
 Their need of our strength and our care.

Father, we thank thee that thou dost not hate us,
 When thou beholdest our grievous faults and follies,
 But that these evil things (though thou hatest them) yet
 endear us the more to thee,
 Because they show that we need thee more.

We thank thee that thou art very patient with us ,
 When we betray ourselves and thyself,
 Thou dost not rage against us in the anger of offended
 justice :
 Thou dost not seek eagerly for vengeance upon us :

Nor dost thou sternly demand a bloody sacrifice of reconciliation :

But thou lovest us the more for our hateful sins,
 With a love that asketh no return—
 No repentance, no reconciliation, no contrition—
 But longeth only to pour out thine own life for us, thy
 beloved

In the free generosity of a sacrifice that hath no ulterior motive.

For thus, O Father, would we give ourselves for those we
 love ;

And there can be in us no noble impulse
 Which is not—infininitely intensified—in thee also.

FOR PREPARATION FOR ETERNITY.

Father,

We thank thee that this turmoil, this haste, this shouting
of many tongues,

Is but for a moment :

That this world passes swiftly away

As the crowd ebbs from a city street.

We thank thee that soon we shall win our release,

Be freed from the fitful delusions of earth

To dwell forever in that eternity of joy,

Which even now presses so steadfastly in upon us.

In the brief moments that remain,

Help us, O our God,

To dwell ever more closely with thee,

Rejecting all lesser goods,

Giving our lives ever more gladly for the service of thy little
ones.

THANKS FOR THE ASSURANCE OF IMMORTALITY.

Father and King,

We thank thee that in thyself all spiritual values are for
ever conserved ;

That nothing true, noble and pure, in action or in character
Can for one moment of all eternity be lost.

But that all such things, being of thy eternal nature,
Forever are treasured and perfected in thyself.

We thank thee that, though these our bodies,—

These poor vehicles of thy self-expression in human goodness.
beauty and truth,—

Must of necessity fail and be scattered in dust,

Yet the souls that have so shown forth thyself

Live forever, perfected and rejoicing, in thee.

We thank thee for this clear assurance of immortality

In the incarnation of thine own nature of love within human
flesh :

We thank thee that our souls are given us to be thy
expression on earth,

And the perpetual sharers of thy blissful communion in
heaven,

Where with our beloved we shall rejoice in thee for ever,

O thou life of our souls.

THANKS FOR GOD'S PEACE.

Lord,

We thank thee for thine inward voice,
Which ever and again calleth us away from the clamour
and dusty strife of this life
Into the cool, quiet groves of eternity.

We thank thee that close around us,
Ever pressing in upon our dim brains,
Is thine eternal world, full of peace and joy.

We thank thee that a hundred times a day
We may take refuge therein,
Feel thy cool fingers soothing our fevered foreheads
Look steadily into thy quiet eyes,
Drink in unto our souls from that gaze
The strength and peace of eternity.

FOR GOD'S SPIRIT AND TASKS.

Lord of life and death,
 Save us from contentment with things that perish,
 Save us from entanglement in delusion and desire.

Make us pure with thy purity,
 Hating, as thou hatest, sin and oppression,
 Seeing with thine eyes the fatal tragedy of self-indulgence
 Hungering and thirsting after thy righteousness.

Make us humble and obedient to thy voice ;
 Teach us to find our life by losing it ;
 Give us the will to follow thy guidance
 Wherever it may lead us, in loneliness, in pain and in grief.

Form in us thine own likeness, the image of thyself ;
 May we be clothed continually with thy nature of love.
 Vouchsafe unto us the perpetual sacrament of thy grace ;
 The perpetual sharing of thine own redemptive purposes.

If we sleep, awake us mercilessly from our lethargy !
 Stir us to desperate faith ;
 Drive us to the undertaking of impossible tasks for thee ;
 Use us this day and every day for the salvation of thy world.

FOR SOCIAL EMANCIPATION.

Lord of all nations,
Grant that, in this our nation,
There may be none, high or low, whatever his race or caste,
Who is bound by the shackles of ancient contempt,
And barred from his right of free manhood.

Grant that all peoples and tongues may be combined
In a new striving for social emancipation,
In a new enthusiasm of humanity,
Brother working with brother
To give to all men their full rights of common sonship to
thee.

FOR THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD.

Father,

We pray thee for thy peace which passeth all understanding,
And for the fearless confidence of soul which cometh from
trusting thyself.

We pray thee for an absolute knowledge

That thou art,

That thou art all in all,

That thou art our Father, who lovest us and watchest over
us.

We pray thee that we may know thee

Not from afar, as ■ king on high,

But in our very souls,

Heart of our hearts, life of our lives,

Sustaining, directing, indwelling.

We pray thee for the joy of repose in thy love,

Which turneth obedience to thee

From ■ sullen acquiescence in thy destinies

To ■ glad identification of our wills with thine :

So that spontaneously we may wish what thou wishest

Accepting whatever lot thou givest us

As the best that could possibly be.

FOR THE CONSERVATION OF OUR SPIRITUAL CAPACITIES.

Lover of our souls,
 Thou knowest our inmost beings,
 Thou seest in us the desires and motives,
 Which we ourselves cannot clearly descry.

Thou knowest what powers for love and for service
 Thou hast set in our souls ;
 Thou knowest every possibility of perfect manhood
 Which lieth here asleep.

Father,
 Take into thy rich store-house,
 Every noble impulse, every high ideal,
 Every right faculty, every capacity for love that is within
 us.

Though here our true selves may never be realised,
 Yet keep and use in thine own good time our powers for love
 and for goodness :
 Add them to thy spiritual resources,
 Pour them into thy secret reservoirs,
 Whence all the nations of the earth,
 Which now lie parched and desolate,
 Shall some day be refreshed and restored with thy water
 of life.

FOR GOD'S MASTERY.

Master and Lord,
Set on our brows the seal of thy ownership,
Make us thy bondmen, humble yet proud,
That, in servitude to thee,
We may go in the fearless liberty of the slaves of God.

Give us that knowledge of thy truth
Which maketh freedom to spring up and blossom
In lives dedicated to unrelenting toil for thy purposes.
Give us that complete self-mastery
Which can only come to wills utterly mastered by thy will.

THANKS FOR WORK.

Master and King,
We thank thee for work to do,
For exhausting labour of hand and brain,
For the burden and heat of the day,
For the monotony, the weariness, the aching,
For the wounds and the agony.

We thank thee that in honest work we have its own reward,
The mind engrossed, the machine running smoothly, the
 function fulfilled,
The sleep of exhaustion, the zest of awakening to new
 achievement,
The wearing-out by use and not by rust.

We thank thee for the glory of going on,
For the ability to do more the more we do,
For the vivid delight of occasional success,
For the courage that comes from continued failure.

We thank thee that thou thyself sharest with us
Toil and exhaustion, failure and success ;
That thou art thyself the beginning and the end,
The motive and the abounding recompense
Of all honest work.

THANKS FOR GOD'S LOVE.

Father,

We thank thee that we can imagine no good thing,
No generous love, no forgiving mercy, no redeeming purity,
That has not a place in thee—
Nay, that is not but a feeble travesty
Of these fair things as they exist in thee.

We thank thee that our highest ideals
Are but faint reflections of the reality in thyself.

We thank thee that we can never hope to conceive
How willingly thou givest thy children all good things.

We thank thee that no human thought
Can ever exaggerate thy love,
Or the richness of the gifts it would shower upon us.

THANKS FOR THOSE WHO REST IN GOD.

Master divine,
 We bless thee that those who rest in thee—
 Who have passed forward from this world's twilight
 Into the full noon-tide glory of thy presence—
 Have evermore immortal youth in thee.

We thank thee that, with their frail flesh, they have laid by
 for ever
 The weakness and weariness, the despondency and the
 gloom,
 Wherewith this human flesh doth ever overshadow the
 undying spirit.

We thank thee that, in laying by the flesh,
 They have laid by for ever all care, all grief, all fallibility,
 All that hampered thy life within them.

We thank thee that they are for ever free
 From all the toils and snares whereby we in this world are
 emmeshed,
 From all coldness of heart, all failure of ideals, all coming
 short of the glory of God.

We thank thee that they have put on
 Immortal joy, immortal freshness of spirit,
 Immortal and unquenchable love, poured forth freely for
 ever.

We thank thee also that we may share with them
 In their eternal youth, their eternal joy,
 Putting on morning by morning
 The fresh robes of thy life within our souls.

FOR COURAGE OF SOUL.

Lord,

We pray thee for courage of soul
To take from life all the unguessed good things,
Which thou hast hidden therein for us.

We pray thee for courage of soul,
That, even when grief and agony
Have robbed us, and left us wounded by the wayside,
To die lonely and destitute,
We may rejoice and be glad,
Because these grim foes but drive us closer to thee
To shelter trustfully beneath thy love.

We pray thee for courage of soul
That we may trust implicitly that love of thine,
Which gives us back generously, a thousand times over
All that we have lost.

FOR GOD'S INDWELLING.

Lord,

We would this day lay in thy hands all that we have and
are,

That our bodies and souls may become fair temples of thy
indwelling ;

We desire with a great desire, O our God,

That our wills may be utterly possessed by thy will,

That our eyes may look out on this world as thine eyes look

That our being may be filled by thy being,

That through our feeble hearts may beat a pulse of thine
eternal love,

And in our narrow souls may dwell a spark of thine eternal
joy.

For, Master, what have we in heaven or earth but thee—?

Yet, not as an external possession do we desire thee :

Come not in condescension from above :

Come not in glory and power from without :

Come not as a belief to be comprehended :

Come not as a wave of emotion, to be felt and forgotten ;

But come as the indwelling spirit within our souls,

Transforming them into thine own divine nature,

Creating in them thine own joyful and loving will.

May we know with an immediate and ineffable knowledge

That in thee we live and move and have our being.

May we prove before men, in daily practice of devoted living

In peace and joy, patience and fortitude, humility and
love,

The fact that thou art our Father and their Father.

FOR GOD'S USE OF OUR POWERS.

Lord,
If here we see not clearly,
If here our love seems wasted in desert sands,
If those whom we would love and serve and cherish
Are far away,
Or will have none of our service,—
Yet take thou the powers thus unrealised.

Use them thyself in thine own way,
Whether in this world or in another ;
Use them as thou wilt—
But use them to the full—
Perfect them in thyself, that they may be omnipotent
For the glory of thy name and the service of thy kingdom

THANKS FOR THE PERPETUAL YOUTH OF THOSE
WHO ABIDE IN GOD.

Lord,

We thank thee that with thee there is no growing old :
That those who abide in thee keep their youth perpetually :
Though their bodies grow aged, yet are their spirits ever
radiant

With the zeal, the enthusiasm, the glowing ideals of youth.

We thank thee that those who dwell in thee
Maintain the divine faculty of youth to see the best in men,
To pierce through the outward layers of weakness and sin
To the pure gold of true manhood within.

We thank thee that they keep the keen delight of childhood
In the simple beauty of earth and sky,
In all things lovely and of good report,
In all things gracious and pure.

We thank thee that they keep the hopefulness of youth
Its resiliency of spirit,
Its unconquerable optimism,
Which rises again undismayed from disaster and defeat.

THANKS FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SPIRITUAL VALUES.

Father,

We thank thee that in thee is eternally stored up
Every unselfish action,
Every spark of generous enthusiasm,
Every impulse of self-sacrificing love,
That has here on earth found expression, even for a moment.

We thank thee that these precious things,
Being of the heavenly currency,
Can never be wasted or lost :
But that, having here on earth been realised in action,
They go straightway to increase the spiritual revenues of
thy heavenly kingdom.

We thank thee that these sweet notes in the eternal harmony,
Having been sounded here on the feeble instrument of ■
human life,
Go straightway to swell thy majestic music of the spheres.

We thank thee that these elements in thy divine nature,
Having here on earth become incarnate in a mortal heart,
Return unto thyself, the fountain of all perfection.

We thank thee that those human souls,
Wherein love, purity, self-sacrifice have been shown forth,
Can never die,
But dwell for ever with thee and in thee,
Sanctified, perfected and joyful.

FOR FORTITUDE.

Master,

Teach **us** to bear pain and loneliness,

Not for the sake of any ultimate reward

That shall be granted to us either now or in the after-life,

But simply because to bear is better than to be rewarded,

To suffer is better than to enjoy.

Show us that to bear pain and loneliness for thy truth's
sake

Is in itself to enjoy the highest gift that human life can
give,

Since in so suffering we share with thee in thy eternal
burden—

The burden of the redemption of the world from death

The deliverance of the world from night,

The release of humanity into love and light and joy.

THANKS FOR THE TRAGEDY OF THE WORLD.

Father,

We thank thee—even whilst we suffer—for the tragedy of
thy world,

For the conflict of lower good with higher.

We thank thee for the setting of the battle,

For the toil and weariness and pain

Whereon is built up the only true good—

The character which is both human and divine,

Wherein love and faithfulness, cheerful self-sacrifice, and
steady devotion to a noble cause

Combine perfectly to show forth thy nature to men.

We thank thee for the relics of the beast within us,

And for all that deludes us with a false semblance of satis-
faction,

Because these things are foes to be fought and conquered,

And only upon victory over them can be built purity and
self-mastery.

We thank thee for sorrow and loneliness,

For all that rends from us sweet and gracious human
companionship,

Because without victory over these foes there cannot be
eternal love,

Nor a full experience of thy divine compassion.

We thank thee for pain and poverty and loss,

For all that robs us of what we hold so dear,

Because without these we cannot gain thyself, [ones.

Nor find forgetfulness of ourselves in service of thy little

We thank thee, our God, for all the tragedy of thy world,

For the conflict of lower good with higher,

For the foes which are but the raw material of our victory,

Nay, of thy victory in us.

THANKS FOR THE BLESSED DEAD.

Lord of all worlds,
We thank thee for all those who are now perfected in thee.
We thank thee that now they are released from their
 apprenticeship,
And behold thee face to face at last,
Dwelling for ever in light and joy with thyself.

We thank thee for their lives here on earth,
For their devotion to duty and right,
For their courage, their self-sacrifice, their love.

We thank thee for their steadfast faithfulness,
For their loyalty and trusty friendship,
For their ready answer to thy call.

We thank thee for their great blessedness
In that their probation was short,
And now they are gone forward to their perfect reward in
 thee.

We thank thee for the high inspiration of their example,
For the hope which is given us, as we think of them,
That we also—though our probation here be longer—
May like them be faithful and self-denying, pure, humble,
 and loving,
That so we may all, in heaven and earth,
Be bound together into one new creation in thyself.

FOR GOD'S PRESENCE IN OUR HEARTS.

O thou, in whom we live and breathe,
 Who enlightenest our souls with the radiance of thy glory
 Who art in thyself the perfect reward of all toil, all sacrifice,
 all agony,
 Holy and almighty, yet infinitely close and dear,
 Heart of our hearts, soul of our souls
 Self of our true selves.

Thou, who by the inward and secret workings of thy spirit
 Urgest us for ever upward that we may find ourselves in
 thee :

Thou, who leavest us not desolate,
 But in loneliness and in grief art very nigh unto us ;
 Thou, who redeemest our feeble and froward wills,
 Bending them by thy holy inward influence
 That they may of their own accord desire what thou desirest
 Work for thy ends, and love with thy love :

O thou, our God, lover of our souls,
 Ineffable reward of all labour,
 Unspeakable joy shining through tears,—
 Be with us and save us this day,
 That we may bear company with thee,
 Put on thee, wear thee in our mortal bodies,
 Gain to-day the substance of eternal life in thee.

FOR GOD'S COMMISSION.

Master and Lord,
Keep us this day in thy presence,
Fence round our hearts with thy love and thy purity,
That no evil thing may come near us.

Purge us from all selfish motive and ambition ;
Teach us to love our fellow-men
With a love that shall be thy love breaking into the world
through us.

Illumine our souls with a clear and glorious perception of
spiritual reality,
With ■ knowledge of thy divine beauty and truth,
That shall fill us with joy and peace.

Make us messengers of thy grace,
Ambassadors of God amongst men.
Make us doorways through which thou thyself mayest enter
freely into thy world.

FOR THE HELPLESS AND FALLEN.

Friend of the helpless and fallen,
 Be with the needy ones of our nation to-day.
 Protect and help those who are starving and naked,
 Uplift those who are down-trodden and despised,
 Put hope into those who have no hope now or hereafter.
 Strengthen the hands of all, whatever their race or creed,
 Who are working honestly to relieve distress,
 To clothe the naked, feed the hungry, enhearten the
 despairing,
 Break down, we beseech thee, the dark strongholds of
 ignorance, of hatred, of fear :
 Enlighten the eyes of those who sit in darkness,
 Who know not and care not that light exists in thy world.

FOR UNITY.

God of all nations,
 We beseech thee to bring that day nearer
 When our country shall be truly one,
 When every barrier shall be broken down,
 When no man shall work for his own selfish good,
 When no man shall defraud or oppress his neighbour,
 When no man shall reckon his neighbour worse than himself,
 When none shall be despised or outcast,
 But all shall be free to work in equal manhood for thee and
 their country.

FOR GOD'S PROTECTION.

Master divine,
Keep us and guard us this day,
Fill our souls with the light of thy presence :
Guard us from shame and from night :
Girdle us round with thy heavenly defences,
That the citadel of our hearts may be inviolate.

Grant that each of our souls this day
May be in time and space an outpost of eternity,
An advance guard of the armies of the kingdom of God,
Pushing forward fearlessly into this realm of darkness and
death,
Where souls by the million are overwhelmed and destroyed
By the relentless forces of materialism and despair.

Vouchsafe unto us thy spirit,
That we may be clothed in thine armour of light,
Worthy of our place in thine armies,
Strong to fight gallantly for thee,
Faithful till death and beyond death,
Secure for all eternity in thy leadership and thy love.

FOR GOD'S SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE.

Lord,

We thank thee that we have thyself for our guide and our
friend.

If following thee means for us a hard and rocky road
That ends in a dark and lonely death,
Yet have we thee with us.

Thou knowest the road,
Thou hast trodden it alone in the night ;
We are not alone.

Teach us with courage and a high faith
To tread in thy company, unafraid,
The pathway which thou hast marked for us with thy
bleeding feet,
The pathway which now thou traversest once more that we
may have thee with us.

FOR THE SPIRIT OF FREEDOM.

God of freedom,
 Who desirest for every man
 The power to rule his own life of his own will by thy laws,
 Break all chains, set free all captives,
 Release into newness of self-directed search for thy will
 All those who are now under bondage
 Whether to other men's wills, or to their own evil will.

Reveal unto all men
 That only in the resolute determination
 Of a will devoted wholly to doing thy will,
 And to working thy work in the world,
 Is freedom to be found.

Grant a new enthusiasm for thy work,
 For the upraising of the outcast,
 For the feeding of the hungry, the healing of the sick
 For the deliverance of those who languish
 In sore captivity to their own baser self.

Spread throughout our country
 The joyful and invincible spirit of this thy freedom,
 That barriers may be broken, ancient wrongs redressed,
 And men of all races and tongues, of all creeds and castes,
 Dwell together in mutual forbearance and co-operation,
 None hindering his fellow from the attainment of that full
 humanity
 Which is breathed upon and transfigured by the breath of
 the divine spirit.

THANKS FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE WORLD.

Creator of all joy and all beauty,
 We bless thee this morning for thy bright world,
 For the sunshine on the hills,
 For the mists on the rivers,
 For bird and beast, mountain, plain and forest,
 All giving glory to thee in the radiance of the new dawn.

We thank thee that (if we abide in thee)
 We may look, as thou lookest
 Upon all the beauty of the earth.

We thank thee that we may listen as thou listenest this
 morning
 To its songs of praise, its melody of joyful thanksgiving
 Both vocal and silent.

O Master, lover of beauty and joy,
 Make our hearts simple and trustful,
 That we may think with thee thine eternal thoughts,
 Thy wise childlike thoughts,
 Whereby the worlds are upheld.

Make our wills lowly and pure,
 That we may share in thy will
 Whereby is created and upheld
 All the joy and the beauty
 Of this thy great universe.

THANKS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN FAITHFUL
TO DEATH.

Father,
We thank thee for the spirit which conquers death,
For all those who have gone gladly to certain destruction
for some great cause,
For all those who, facing clearly the consequences,
Have chosen, not the way of safety, but the way of danger :
and so died.

We thank thee for all those who, of their own will,
Have given their lives for their duty,
Winning thereby an eternal reward.

We thank thee for all those who, fearing naught but
dishonour,
Have counted their life a very little thing,
A thing to be adventured jestingly, so that duty be done.

Give unto us also this spirit, O Father,
That we may be worthy of those who are gone—
That to us too duty may be everything and life an
irrelevance.

FOR THE ASSURANCE OF IMMORTALITY.

Father,

We pray thee for the blessed assurance

That after our passage through the desolate wastes of this
world

There awaits us the light and the warmth,

The love and the joy of thy heavenly abode,

Wherein is laid up our eternal treasure.

We pray thee for faith,

That, standing without in the cold and the rain,

We may gaze, as through a brightly-lighted window, into
thy home,

And behold therein the abundant bliss of thy beloved.

May our hearts yearn to share in that delight,

To meet once more, face to face,

Those who have earned their entrance into thy presence,

And are freed for ever from the desolations of this flesh.

Grant that our waiting-time may not be long

In this half-life, where the work we do for thee

Is so faltering, so feeble, so ill-achieved,

Beside the work that they, thy beloved, carry forward
triumphantly in heaven.

Yet give us courage and strength of will,

That while we abide without in this cold and this dark

We may give our utmost, bearing daily thy cross,

Sharing loyally with thee in thy eternal labour of redemption

FOR THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS.

Our God, we thank thee,
 That to thee there are no barriers between this world and
 the other ;
 But that, hand in hand, they who have passed on and they
 that remain
 May even now in prayer draw near to thyself and to each
 other,
 As unitedly and as naturally as little children around their
 mother's knee.

We thank thee that in thy presence all barriers break,
 All illusions dissolve,
 All accidents of time and space vanish away,
 All separation, all bereavement, is abolished
 In the exceeding glory of thy audience chamber.

Keep us all safe to-day in thy spiritual city,
 Both those that see thee face to face,
 And we whose vision is yet dimmed by the flesh :
 Give us all work to do, battles to fight, difficulties to over-
 come,
 And the joy of victory.

Grant that we may know ourselves working together in thy
 one service,
 Each in each knowing and sharing
 The hard and the smooth, the bitter and the sweet,
 Members of each other made one in thee—
 One tool to work for thee,
 One weapon to fight for thee,
 One new creature in thyself.

FOR THE BREAKING DOWN OF BARRIERS.

King of the whole earth,
Break down, we beseech thee, by thy great power,
All those barriers which do now keep mankind asunder :
Overcome the hindrances of race, of custom, and of
 prejudice :
Drive out all those adverse influences,
Which now mar our union.

Foster throughout thy world
Every movement of thought, of activity, of good-will,
Which tends, for whatever motive and in whatever sphere
To break down isolation and exclusiveness,
To unite men in common enterprise and service,
To build up co-operation and interdependence.

FOR A ZEAL FOR BEAUTY.

God of all beauty and joy,
 Grant unto us that this day we may share with thee
 The purity of thy divine passion for beauty,
 For beauty of form and of sound,
 For beauty of thought and of expression of thought,
 For beauty of action and of character,
 For beauty of life and beauty of soul.

Give us thy perception, that we may hear
 With thy divine joy
 The one deep-going harmony behind the clashing discords
 of this world.

Give us thine eyes, that we may see
 With thy divine joy
 All the radiant beauty of thy material world.

Give us thine eyes, to see indeed the disfigurement and the
 sin,
 But to see through them the divine possibilities of beauty,
 Which lie hidden beneath the loathsomeness.

Give us thine eyes, to see the perfect statue
 In the rough-hewn weather-stained block ;
 To see the ideal manhood in the twisted, blackened villain.

Give us thy divine zeal for beauty.
 That we may transform hideous places, hideous lives and
 hideous souls,
 Into places fitted in beauty for thy habitation.

Into lives fitted in beauty for thy companionship,
 Into souls fitted in beauty for thine indwelling.
 Make us ambassadors of thy kingdom
 In which all things beautiful are for ever preserved and
 perfected.

FOR THE FULFILMENT OF GOD'S PURPOSE FOR OUR LIVES.

Master divine,
 We bring to thee the tasks of this day—
 Above all, the great task of being the men thou wouldst
 have us to be,
 Of fulfilling thy ambitions for us.

Grant unto us a zeal to work with thee,
 To co-operate in thy purpose for our lives

We know that, for each one of us,
 Thou hast a great and glorious future in store
 If only we will permit thee freedom
 To work out that future in us.

Help us therefore to give thee full scope in our lives
 That in serving thee and in serving our fellow-men,
 We may fulfil thy ambitions for us.

✓ FOR COURAGE.

Lord.

We pray thee for courage this day,
 Courage to meet the ugly realities of life,
 The disillusionments, the monotony, the weariness,
 The unfaithfulness of friends, the emptiness of heart,
 The pain, the loneliness, the slow wearing-out of powers and
 ideals.

Give us courage, O Lord, to confront these enemies,
 As real enemies to be fought and conquered through thy
 grace.

Give us strength to face stark facts,
 Not shirking their grim significance.

We would bear the full burden and heat of the day,
 Taste the full bitterness of the cup that man must drink.
 We pray not for an easy passage through life :
 We pray not for a sheltered refuge from the storm of
 circumstance,

But we pray, first for fortitude, and then for the opportunity
 to use it—

To use it in thy service, by bearing our share, and more than
 our share, of thy load.

May we lift a fraction of that grievous weight of human
 misery,

Which thou dost never shirk,
 But bearest perpetually
 In all men and for all men.

FOR LOYALTY TO THE HIGHEST.

Lord of truth and purity,
We beseech thee to build up in us thine own nature.

Found our souls upon the rock,
That we may be content with no transient happiness
Bought at the cost of compromise and unfaithfulness.

Teach us the bitterness of forsaking noble ideals ;
Teach us the glory and warmth of the loneliness and pain
That come from fearless following of the highest that we
know.

Give us thine own vision of the eternal values,
Thine own resolute disregard of the second best,
Thine own unflinching loyalty to duty and honour.

THANKS FOR THE ADVENTURE OF LIFE.

Lord of life and death,
 We thank thee for the great adventure of life,
 With its untold possibilities,
 Its incalculable chances,
 Its mighty opportunities.

We thank thee that—if we have thee with us—
 There is no monotony or weariness in the world :
 But we go on,—for ever exploring and adventuring,
 Across new seas where ship has never sailed before ;
 Through trackless forests where human foot has never
 trodden,
 Over towering mountain-ranges,
 Whence we look forth upon new expanses of wonder
 Heretofore unseen by the eye of man.

We thank thee that, for those who dwell with thee,
 Each day opens new a continent of vivid experience ;
 Each day shows new a world to conquer ;
 For thy love is new every morning,
 And life with thee is daily born again from its beginning.

THANKS FOR THE ADVENTURE OF DEATH.

We thank thee, O our Lord,
 For thy great enterprise of death,
 Wherein the tiny barque of our soul,
 Having loosed its cables, fares forth gallantly into the
 night.

Though the waves run dark and fearful,
 Though there be neither moon nor star,
 Though there be no human knowledge of the farther shore,
 Yet shall we fare forth with joy to this the greatest of all
 adventures.

Give unto us, when the time comes for our farewell,
 The resolution of Columbus, the courage of John Franklin,
 That there may be in us no vain regrets, no faint-hearted
 repinings ;

But a steadfast mind, gazing forth earnestly on its high
 destiny.

May we care nothing then for ourselves,
 But be filled with the joy of exploration and discovery,
 Wholly intent on the great and glorious prize beyond the
 lonely voyage,
 On the certainty of finding at last
 That beside which all else in earth and heaven is nothing
 worth.

FOR FITNESS FOR LIBERTY.

Saviour divine,
Who dost ordain unto us, who would be free,
Both inalienable rights and inalienable duties,
Reveal fully unto us that our lives are not our own.

Show us that freedom and equality demand from us
Tolerance, humility, self sacrifice,
Willingness to share in onerous public burdens
And to subordinate our own opinions and interests to those
of a majority.

Teach us to suffer fools gladly,
To be willing to see our own standards lowered
That those of the masses may be raised.

Teach us thy divine patience,
Thy divine enthusiasm in self-denying service,
That so we may become worthy of thy liberty.

FOR LIBERTY, EQUALITY AND BROTHERHOOD.

Lord,

Who hast set in men's hearts thine ideal of liberty,
 Illumine all mankind with the knowledge of that truth
 which maketh free.

Lord,

Who hast set in men's hearts thine ideal of equality,
 Reveal unto all mankind that in common sonship to thee,
 And in this alone, is the inalienable right of equal manhood.

Lord,

Who hast set in men's hearts the ideal of brotherhood,
 Make known unto all mankind
 That in drawing closer to thee,
 And in this alone can they draw closer to their brethren.

Lord,

Who, throughout the ages,
 Hast set working terribly amid the peoples of the earth
 The leaven of thine ideals,
 So that ancient wrongs are swept away,
 Ancient barriers broken down,
 Ancient oppressions shattered,
 Look down in mercy upon our land :
 Send forth among her millions, with new power, these thy
 great and revolutionary ideals,
 Thy liberty, thine equality, thy brotherhood.

FOR PREPARATION FOR THE HEREAFTER.

Father,

Prepare us for thy spiritual companionship,
For the joyful intimacy of the heavenly union
With thee and with those who abide in thee.

Prepare us for the purity and the gracious simplicity
Of that eternal existence,
Where weakness and weariness of body and spirit
Enter not at all to mar the union of our souls.

May we live with thee here and now as little children,
Contented and happy in the home of their father,
Consorting with him and with their playfellows
In an unquestioning confidence and a childlike simplicity.

May we take for granted the eternal realities of the life which
 is lived in thee,
Those realities which the wise and prudent perceive not ;
But which are revealed to those who love thee in simple
 hearted devotion,
Weak and foolish, like ourselves, though they may be.

FOR A COMPREHENSION OF GOD'S LOVE.

Our God,

We thank thee that thou lovest every creature whom thou
hast made,

With a love so far surpassing the highest human love—

The love of mother for child, of pure man for purer woman—

As thy thoughts, which govern the universe,

Surpass our thoughts, which cannot govern ourselves.

We thank thee that the highest we know

Of mercy, of yearning devotion, of renunciation, of self-
denying care,

Is as a feeble candle beside the sun of thy love.

We thank thee that thus thou lovest us,

Even us in our mire of contempt,

And thus also thou lovest every man on earth.

We thank thee that, thus loving, thou grantest unto every
man freedom,

Freedom to forget thee and to mar thy design,

For so alone can Love fashion for itself the mate it desireth.

O fire us with a comprehension of this love of thine,

That shall sear from us our pride, our exclusiveness, our
neglect,

Making us to love men indeed, and so loving to grant them
freedom.

FOR FAITHFULNESS.

Lord,
Teach us faithfulness,
Faithfulness till death and beyond death,
Faithfulness which—knowing the utter worth of that which
it adores
(Whether ideal of truth or human soul)—
Can live content through long years of patient waiting,
Satisfied in the knowledge that some day it shall have its
reward,
Some day it shall behold face to face,
Some day the truth for which it has lived,
Shall be vindicated and acknowledged for ever

Lord
Show us the infinite value in thine eyes
Of such faithfulness—
Of loyalty unswerving and single-eyed,
To the highest that we have known,
To the loveliest that we have seen,
To the deepest truth that has been revealed unto us.

Lord,
Teach us the excellent glory of this faithfulness,
Of this loyalty, which at long last shall be its own most
abundant reward;
Teach us the patience and the self control,
Teach us the courage and the devotion of spirit,
Teach us the humility and the simplicity,
Without which we must forget and sink, and be lost.

✓ FOR A VISION AND SHARING OF GOD'S NATURE.

Lord of all worlds,
 Who art mightier than thine own eternal laws,
 Which knit the universe in the bonds of thy purpose,
 Thou, who swayest the stars in their courses,
 Yet dost come to dwell in these narrow hearts of ours,
 Give unto us, we beseech thee, this day,
 A vision of thy grandeur and might,
 Of thine all-sustaining and all-triumphant will,
 Calm, hasteless, confident.

Fill us with a knowledge of thy purity,
 Which rejoiceth, with the clean delight of the universal joy
 In the conquest of good over evil in the heart of the meanest
 of mankind.

Give us ears to hear the eternal music of thy joy
 In the gladness of birds and the laughter of children,
 In mother-love, in all loyalty to duty and truth.

Give us eyes to see thy sore need, even thy need, O Lord of
 all worlds,
 In the poverty, the disease, the misery,
 Of the starving, the outcast and the base.

Give us hearts to feel the impulse of thy love for all mankind,
 O thou who lovest men with a divine passion, beside which
 the fiercest human love
 Is cold as the dead moon beside the splendour of the living
 sun.

THANKS FOR LAUGHTER

Father,
We thank thee for laughter,
For the first sweet smile of a babe,
Which is thy first glance on the world through his eyes :
For the glad play of a child,
Which to see thou thyself bendest close from heaven :
For the gay mirth of home life
Unto which thou thyself delightest to hearken :
For the swift flash of gallant humour
That suddenly lightens the gloom of disaster :
For the homeric laughter of heroes going gallantly to death :
For the last dear smile struggling through weakness and pain
Yet radiant with love and faith,
Which may carry a man safe across the gulf of years and the
 silence of death.
We thank thee, Father, for thy gift of laughter,
Which runs through the dark stuff of human tragedy
Like a thread of gold through a sombre curtain,—
That curtain of life which sunders us from Life.

THANKS FOR GOD'S WORK IN HISTORY.

God of all nations and of all ages,
 We thank thee for thy work in history,—
 For thy spirit, which, from the beginning,
 Up through the slow æons of evolution,
 Has never deserted thy handiwork.

We thank thee that thou hast suffered in thy creation
 The agony and the weariness of the whole slow process,
 Not external to it, looking down curiously from an easy
 heaven
 But present in the heart of it, bearing the brunt of it all.

We thank thee that in humanity thou dost still suffer and
 strive,
 Struggling perpetually, with tears and with blood,
 To release into the world thy life, thy joy, thy love,
 For ever defeated in the conflict (for so in thy love thou
 limitest thy power),
 Yet for ever warring in us against the beast, against death
 and night.

FOR DELIVERANCE FROM SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

Father,

Scorch from our souls by thy fire of grief and pain

All self-sufficiency and conceit,

All satisfaction in our own doings or our own capacities.

Make us dependent wholly upon thyself,

Men who know that they know nothing,

That of themselves they have no power and no virtue,

But that from thee and in thee they may inherit all good
things.

Show us that thou wilt make us the partners of thy
universal throne,

Lord of all worlds,

If only we ourselves are naked and helpless.

But are possessed of thee.

FOR THE NATION.

Creator and Ruler of mankind,
We pray thee this day for our country,
That her new life may be established and built up in thyself
That all hatred and malice,
All indifference to the sufferings of others,
All narrow exclusiveness and selfish greed,
May be swept away by the breath of thy spirit :
And that public-spirit, honour and justice,
Co-operation in service, self-sacrifice for the good of the
 whole people,
May flourish abundantly amongst us.

We pray thee also for ourselves,
That thou wilt forge us into tools meet for the service of our
 country :
Burn from us all selfishness and pride :
Purify us from all baseness :
Fill us with thy divine passion
To uplift the weak,
To sweep away oppression and wrong,
To give to every man, even to the lowest and most degraded,
The opportunity of a full life
That may be lived to thy glory and to the service of man-
 kind.

THANKS FOR GOD'S SHARING OF OUR TROUBLES

Father,

We thank thee for thy loving heart,
Which cannot endure to dwell aloof in bliss,
Whilst we are in anguish here on earth.

We thank thee that thou comest among us
To serve in humble ways,
To live and to die in humanity,
To share with us the weariness, the pain,
The burden, the hatred, the shame,
Which are our lot here in the service of our fellows.

We thank thee that thou dost bear, with us,
Scorn and ridicule, opposition, persecution and malice ;
That thou dost fail with us, hopelessly, and irremediably
To the end that in our failure thou mayest make us thine
own,
And set up at last, upon our graves,
The glorious and triumphant banners of thy kingdom.

FOR GOD'S PRESENCE.

Lover of our souls,
Come into these cold and empty hearts of ours,
Come to fill them with light, warmth and love,
With the heavenly music,
With the sound of the eternal harmony,
With the footfall of the saints that rejoice in thy bliss.
Thou art Lord of all, Master of suns and stars,
Yet art thou our Belovéd,
The Saviour of our souls from death and night.

Thou rulest with thy will the outermost constellations of
space,
Yet in thee do we live and move and have our being,
Finding in thee, and in thee alone, the breath of our life.

Come, our Lord, thou Lover of our souls,
Come to purify and uplift our failing hearts,
Come to impart unto us the eternal joy of those that are in
bliss with thee.

FOR A SHARE IN GOD'S CONFLICT
FOR HUMANITY.

Master,

We thank thee with a great gratitude
That thou dost never desert, in his shame and sordid
distress,

Even the feeblest and foulest of all thy creatures ;
But dost fight to the end thine eternal conflict
In the soul of every man in all thy world.

Give us grace to-day to share with thee
In this thine agony of conflict for humanity.

Win thou thy victory
In these our hearts that need thy help so sorely.

By humility and simple friendship
Make us thy loyal soldiers, bearing timely aid
To those who are worsted and beaten down in the fight.

FOR PURITY.

Master divine,
Give us this day thy spirit,
The breath of thy life,
The effulgence of thine exceeding glory :
That our souls may be filled with the peace and the joy of
thy presence,
With the unspeakable bliss of the knowledge that we are
with thee,
With the power and the enduring courage,
That come from thyself alone.

Cast out from our hearts all weakness,
All pettiness of outlook, all meanness of ideal
Purge us from all desire of self-gratification
Save us from the beast that lurks within us,
From our own lower selves.
From the sins of the flesh and the deadlier sins of the spirit,
From pride, from desire of recognition,
From a yearning for visible results in our service.

FOR FAITH.

Father, we pray thee for faith :
For the faith which, in the rayless darkness of midnight,
Discerns clearly thy presence,
And leans with entire confidence on thy support.

We pray thee for the faith that shall give us here and now
In absolute reality the spiritual world :
So that, whilst walking this earth as ordinary men,
We may both see and hear the ineffable glories of thy Heaven.

Give us the faith which out of disaster and despair
Creates facts, whose substance of ultimate reality
As vividly transcends the substance of material things,
As the sunlight transcends the glow of a feeble lamp.

Give us the faith which catches hold of thee
And presses thy hand, even as a man in sore agony
Catches and crushes the hand of his friend.

Give us the faith which can give us back, transfigured and
glorious,
Those our beloved who have passed forward to dwell with
thee for ever,
Where faith is sight and sight is faith.

FOR HUMILITY.

Father,

Make us humble and childlike in spirit

That we may work joyfully for love of thee,

Because thou art the delight of our hearts, infinitely adorable,
infinitely adored.

Make us humble and childlike in spirit,

That we may work also for love of those weak and needy
ones,

In whom thou art incarnate amongst us.

Make us humble and childlike in spirit,

That in heaven and earth we, thy little children,

May all be bound together into one joyful family,

Called by thy name, dwelling in thy home, united
indissolubly in thee.

FOR WORK TO DO FOR GOD.

O thou who art forever the same,
 Yet dost forever reveal unto us fresh empires of thy love :
 O thou, who in sadness and failure
 Dost by death triumph perpetually over death :
 O thou, who canst breathe upon mortal flesh,
 And straightway kindle therein the image of thy Deity :
 O thou, who art eternally love and purity,
 Our Father, our Master, our Friend,
 Bone of our bone, flesh of our flesh,
 Breath of our life, indweller of our spirits,
 Take us and mould us to thy likeness this day.

Grant that we may walk amongst men,
 Thy messengers, thy warriors,
 Thy perfect knights,
 Thy ministers consecrated to thy service,
 Serving thee with unswerving loyalty and single-eyed
 devotion,
 Existing only to live forth thy life in thy world,
 To fight thy battles,
 To be ourselves thy weapons, thy tools, thy hands
 To love thee, to toil with thee, to die for thee.
 Take us, O Lord this day,
 And use us as thou wilt, in the cause of thy eternal kingdom.

FOR THE POOR AND OUTCAST.

God of love

We pray thee this day for the poor and outcast of this land :

For those who from year's end to year's end

Have never enough for their body's need :

For those who live perpetually on the bitter edge of
starvation :

For those whose lot is continually shame and oppression,

Who for no fault of their own are loathed and spat upon :

For those who labour incessantly,

In heat and thirst, for a miserable reward :

For those who are driven through want to shame and sin :

For those who have no hope in this life or beyond :

For those who labour helplessly for cruel masters :

For those who are bound fast by dark superstition and
horrible dread :

For those who lack bitterly thy light and thy life :—

For all these, O our Father, we beseech thy grace.

And we ask thee for a share of thy spirit,

That we may give ourselves, gladly and generously,

In the constant endeavour to rescue and to emancipate

These, the needy and helpless ones of our nation—

These without whom she cannot be saved.

THANKS FOR BEAUTY AND JOY.

Creator of life and light,
 We bless thee this day for the beauty of thy world,
 For sunshine and flowers, storm-cloud and starry night,
 For the first radiance of dawn and the last smouldering
 glow of the sunset.

We thank thee for physical joy,
 For the ecstasy of swift motion,
 For deep water to swim in,
 For the goodly smell of rain on dry ground,
 For hills to climb, and hard work to do,
 For all skill of hand and eye,
 For music that lifts our hearts in one breath to heaven,
 For the hand-grasp of a friend,
 For the gracious loveliness of children.

We thank thee above all for spiritual beauty and joy
 For home-love, for mother-love, for child-love,
 For the instant assent of our hearts
 To the truth that is spoken by prophet or poet,
 For the exceeding bliss of the touch of thy hand,
 Awakening suddenly our drowsy souls
 Into blessed awareness of thy presence with us and in us :—
 For all these thy sacraments of beauty and joy
 We thank thee our Lord and our God.

FOR LIBERATION.

Lord,

Our spirits beat vainly at the prison bars of this flesh
 Yearning exceedingly to come unto thee
 And to share at last the perfection and purity,
 The ineffable bliss, the delicate loveliness,
 Of the heavenly companionships.

Why dost thou bind us here, O Lord :

Why dost thou load us with shackles so burdensome,
 With the weakness, the folly, the uncleannesses
 Of this poor human flesh, this heir of corruption,
 This beast-flesh, that is continually dragging us down,
 Smothering with its soft weight the holy and divine life of
 the spirit

Which thou wouldst kindle within us ?

Lord,

We desire thee exceedingly,
 We yearn to come unto thee,
 To know thee face to face, to gain in thee for ever
 Thy greatest good—
 Full unity with thyself and with those who have conquered
 and are at rest in thee.

Grant, O our God,

That our time of waiting be not too long :
 Cut short the days of our imprisonment :
 Loose us swiftly from this imperfection, this corruption :
 Set us for ever free,
 That we may lose ourselves in thee
 And in those whom thou holdest secure with thyself.

FOR FULNESS OF LIFE.

Master,
Give us life today,
Life strong and triumphant,
Life full, free and eternal.

Give us the fulness of physical life
In these the swift-perishing habitations of thy spirit.

Give us the fulness of mental life
In these poor tools whereby we strive laboriously to think
thy thoughts again.

Give us the fulness of spiritual life—
The abounding glory of the knowledge of thine own
indwelling,
Whereby in space and time we may live the everlasting Life
Which is thyself.

FOR THOSE WHOSE LIVES ARE SHATTERED.

Friend of the hopeless and fallen,
 We pray thee this day for shattered lives,
 For those whom bitter circumstance has maimed
 In body, in mind, or in faith.

We pray thee for those who see no hope
 Either in this world or hereafter,
 But feel themselves fated to drag endlessly forward
 A crippled and useless existence,
 From which war or bereavement or doubt
 Has lopped a limb, a mate, or the Friend of their souls.

Upon all such, O Friend and Deliverer
 We pray thy mercy and thy gracious care :
 Be patient with their poor floundering endeavours
 To live again with crippled powers of living :
 Look not upon their despair :
 Listen not to the wild words they utter :
 But gently and with infinite devotion,
 Like a mother with ■ maimed and fretful child,
 Lead and support them step by step, though they heed thee
 not,
 Till little by little they learn to walk once more.

Teach them that thou, whom they hated and blasphemed,
 Hast been with them, upheld them, borne with them,
 Saved them from themselves, taught them to live again ;
 For this, O Saviour, is work worthy of thyself.

THANKS FOR THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD.

Light of the world,
We thank and bless thee
For those mysterious and terrible moments,
When—beyond all denial and doubt
Utterly and ineffably, with the majesty of entire simplicity—
Thou thyself touchest our soul,
And we awake to know that we are with thee.

We thank thee that thus thou dost reveal thyself unto us,
Not in thunder or earthquake,
Not in solemn pageantry of ceremonial pomp or exquisitely
 ordered worship,
But at thine own chosen times, stirring us into awareness
 of thy presence
By poem or sunset, music or silence vibrant with thy voice.

We thank thee for the unspeakable sweetness unto our
 souls
Of thy touch, the thrill of thy immediate nearness,
The joyful knowledge of thy divine companionship,
The certainty of thy all-repaying love,
The substance of eternal life enjoyed even now in thyself.

THANKS FOR SLEEP.

Lord,

We thank thee for those sacred and joyful moments
When we awake and know that we have been with thee :
When the bliss of thy companionship has been so keen
As to arouse us with its poignant delight from our sleep.

We thank thee, Lord, for this sleep-time,
Wherein our spirits, set free,
Hold converse unchecked with thee and with those that
 dwell at peace in thee.

Though, as we awake, the veil of forgetfulness shuts down
 swiftly
Over our restless reason and our hard mechanical memory,
Yet there abides in our nostrils the sweet scent of the
 heavenly blossoms,
In our ears the deep echoes of the heavenly refrain,
In our hands the warm clasp of the heavenly friendship,
On our cheeks the divine imprint of the heavenly embrace,
And in our hearts the joyful assurance of eternal life and
 love.

THANKS FOR ETERNAL LIFE.

Father,

We thank thee that, while philosophies may change,

Theologies be confounded,

Religions languish and fail,

Still nothing in heaven or earth, neither things present nor
things to come,

Nor height nor depth, can sever those who have felt thy
touch

From the knowledge that thou art

And that thou lovest men.

We thank thee that, directly, all-sufficiently,

We may know thee,

Know thee for our own souls

Know thee in our own souls,

And in that knowledge find life,

Life eternal, with thyself and with those—

Thy beloved and blessed ones—

Who dwell forever secure in thee.

FOR GOD'S GRACE.

Lord of all good gifts,
Again we come to thee,
To explore in a new day the boundless realms of thy love
and grace.

We are like children wandering in a new and marvellous
garden,
Where each path leads to fresh wonderlands of delight,
Full of enchanted sweetness and hidden joy.

We are like battered explorers,
Sighting from afar the lofty coast-line of some new conti-
nent,
Whereon human eyes have never yet gazed.

We are like storm-scarred mariners,
Sailing, smitten dumb with wonder,
Through magic inland seas, girt with unearthly loveliness of
hill and forest.

We are like an artist, possessed mind and soul by a vision of
unimagined splendour,
In which, if he can but express it, the whole world shall
acknowledge and revere
A new type of divine beauty, whereof no man before has ever
dreamt.

We are like a musician, into whose listening ear,
There steals, tremulous but sure, with a certainty beyond all
certainties of earth,
An echo of the heavenly harmonies.

We are like a singer who catches and holds for one brief
moment

One stave of thy deathless music of eternity,
Which all men hearing confess to be divine.

We are like a poet, whose brain lies still and drowsy,
Till of a sudden the keen naked glory of a new thought stabs
him to quivering ecstasy—

A thought which shall sweep through the world,
Like the north wind through the pine trees,
Scattering before it all doubt and all half-truths.

We are like a prophet, who—silent upon his face in the
desert—

Hears whispering to his shivering soul thy voice, O God
Till he arises, mastered and afraid,
And goes forth to preach thy name,
That all men may know thee and serve thee as thy slaves.

We, even we, so weak and wilful,
Are like unto these, O our God,
As we come before thee in this new day.
We would drink from the unfathomable wells of thy love
and thy grace.
Have pity then upon us, and save us.

FOR GOD'S PRESENCE WITH US.

O thou, so tender and true,
Whose love passeth the love of women,
Whose friendship sticketh closer than a brother's,
Whose presence with us solves all problems,
Enlightens all dark places, fulfils all needs,
Populates all loneliness, kills all death,
Be with us in power and tenderness this day.

Show to us our poverty and misery if we have not thee ;
Fill us with an unquenchable desire for thyself,
That, hungering and thirsting for thy sufficiency,
We may find the substance and reality of eternal life—
Eternal life that shall begin here this very day—
In the knowledge of thine all-repaying love.

Reveal unto us thus the purpose of thy creation :
Vouchsafe thus the perfection of joy unto our souls.

THANKS FOR THE TRAGEDY OF LIFE.

O pitiful Heart, Friend and Saviour divine,
 We thank thee for the tragedy of these lives which thou
 hast given us,
 For the perpetual warfare of the good against the best,
 For the stern and bitter choice that must be made—
 Not once or twice, but to-day and to-morrow and every
 coming day—
 Between a lower truth, a lesser good,
 And the bleak inhospitable best.

We thank thee that thou callest us
 To be of the great and shining company
 Of those who, throughout all ages,
 Have looked upon the pleasant valley-meadows with their
 cosy homesteads,
 Have drunk in yearningly their beauty and their peace,
 Yet of stern purpose have turned their backs on these good
 things,
 And, with set face and heart wrung by loneliness and
 longing,
 Have steadfastly climbed upwards to the peaks.

We thank thee, O our God,
 That, though on those beautiful cold heights
 No life of man abides,
 Yet there thy breath breathes keen and searching.
 Thy glory walks unveiled,
 And the light of thine own presence
 Sheds deathless radiance on the utmost snows.

THANKS FOR PEACE OF SOUL.

Father,

We thank thee that as in the heat and dust of the town

We may remember the coolness and cleanness,

The silence and peace of the country,

Which lieth all around us unseen,

With its birds and flowers, woods and streams,—

So in the turmoil of our hurrying lives,

In the midst even of pain and failure,

We may remember that beyond and all around is thyself

Quiet and cool, trusty, beautiful and brave,

In whom is our hope and our stay for ever.

FOR FREEDOM FROM THE LOVE OF MONEY.

Lord and Saviour of those that are poor,
 Free us from the love of money :
 Make us like unto the saints and sages of old,
 Who for thy sake abandoned gladly all hope of honour
 and of worldly gain,
 Knowing beyond all doubt that the only true wealth in the
 universe
 Is a pure heart and a will at leisure to serve thee to the
 uttermost.

Reveal unto us the utter worthlessness
 Of earthly prosperity, earthly fame, earthly dignity
 In view of thine eternal realities.

Strip from us ruthlessly all earthly treasure,
 However precious and adored,
 Which sunders us from thee and hinders us from living unto
 thy glory alone.

If thou givest us money, teach us to hold it lightly—
 As knowing that it is not our own.
 Teach us also to give it gladly—as knowing that we are
 debtors unto our brethren.

Purge from our hearts all the shameful and detestable
 weakness
 Which would lead us at times to defile holy things with the
 touch of money.
 Give us a high and invincible poverty of spirit,
 Content with a bare sufficiency of worldly goods,
 Restless and ill at ease, if more is given,
 Until it be lost again in sharing with our brethren.

FOR COURAGE TO FACE REALITY.

God of all power and Ruler of all worlds,
 Save us, we pray thee, from empty sentiment,
 From the impulse to cover naked facts
 With a false clothing of cheap and tawdry affectation.

Save us from vapid emotion and frothy enthusiasm,
 From contentment with pleasant half-truths,
 From the temptation to hide harsh reality
 Beneath a soft coating of effeminate idealism.

Make of us men fitted to encounter unflinchingly the grim
 facts of life and death
 In all their cruelty and in all their glory,—
 Men fitted to feel all the bitter meaning of these facts,
 Yet to perceive also the stern beauty behind them.

Clear from our minds all hypocrisy and pretence,
 All pious shams, all hoary lies,
 That we may deal directly with reality,
 Fearing nothing, dissembling nothing, shirking nothing.

Give us a resolution to know the truth at any cost,
 And, having known it, to transform it into another truth,
 another realm of reality,
 In which thy will shall reign ; that so cruel facts may be
 seen to be merciful facts,
 And this harsh world become thy Kingdom of Heaven.

FOR WORK TO DO.

Master,

Give us this day hard work to do,

Work that will tax us and strain us,

Work that will stretch our muscles and engross our minds,

Work that will employ all our powers of body and intellect
and heart,

Work—above all—that will further thy cause in the
world.

If our work appointed this day be study and training for
life,

Reveal unto us our responsibility unto thee for the future ;

Show us that we are debtors to thyself and to our fellows ;

Teach us that every faculty of body and mind must be
faithfully prepared,

So that, when our time comes, we may go forth fit instru-
ments for thy service,

Weapons polished and keen, ready suited to thy grasp,

Wherewith thou mayest fight the battles of righteousness
and truth,

Vanquishing error, oppression and wrong.

If our work be the teaching and training of others,

Then make our minds pure and humble before thyself,

That no stain of selfishness or lethargy,

Of mean purpose or of low ideals,

May mar this weighty and honourable service

Which thou in thy loving favour hast been pleased to commit
to our charge.

THANKS FOR IMMORTAL LOVE.

Lord,

We thank thee that no good thing that has ever existed
Can ever die ;
For in thee all goodness and purity is for ever preserved ;
In thee all love that has been, lives for ever ;
In thee all innocence and simplicity have immortal youth.

For thou art eternal,
And in thee these eternal things—
Though amongst us they were revealed only for a season—
Have eternally their perfect being.

We thank thee therefore that those who love purely and
selflessly
Dwell for ever immortally in thyself :
We thank thee that their love, having once existed,
Exists for ever, because thou for ever existest.

We thank thee that nothing in heaven or earth,—
Neither death nor agony nor disaster,—
Can annul the holy and eternal fact
That love once truly loved is loved for ever,
Endures, perpetually young, fair and immortal.
Safe in thyself.

THANKS THAT WE MUST BEAR EACH OTHER'S
BURDENS.

Lover of men,

We thank thee that thou hast made all men of one flesh
So that the strong may share their strength with the weak,
The wise may share their knowledge with the simple,
The seer of truth may share his vision with those whose
eyes are dim.

We thank thee that none of us liveth unto himself,
But each is for ever debtor, to thee and to his brethren.

We thank thee that there is no goodness or purity
Which is not used in thy purposes to cleanse away evil
and lust.

We thank thee that there is no simple loveliness
Which is not used by thee to make all the world more
beautiful.

We thank thee that there is no pure love
Which thou dost not take and wield for the universal work
of thy kingdom.

We thank thee that there is no virtue and no honour
Except the virtue and honour which are for ever at work in
the redemption of thy world.

THANKS FOR THE PROSPECT OF SERVICE.

Father,

We thank thee that in thy heaven
Goodness, purity and love,
Which are of thine own divine nature,
Shall still find work to perform for thee.

We thank thee that these holy things
Must of their very nature—lest they cease to be—
Perpetually be shared with those that lack.

We thank thee that then, at last,
Shall full satisfaction be given to the eternal craving
Of love to share itself with the lonely,
Of purity to give itself for the cleansing of the foul,
Of that which is fair and noble to transform by its own
sacrifice that which is base.

THANKS FOR THE HARDNESS OF THE WORLD.

O thou who sharest with us in joy and sorrow,
 Leader, lover and friend,
 We thank thee for the long hard trail,
 For the bleeding feet, the torn hands, the gasping breath,
 the ache of weariness,
 For the ashen hollowness of a new dawn
 When we know there is no relief for us this side the grave,
 For the barren relief of evening
 When there can be no true rest till the journey be ended for
 ever.

We thank thee for these thy rough disciplines,
 Under whose stripes we groan,
 Yet by whose harshness our manhood is fashioned and
 hardened.
 We thank thee for the bitterness of grief
 Whereby thou moulded us to thy will,
 Teaching us patience, fortitude, disregard for all alleviation
 save thyself.

We thank thee for the coldness of the world,
 For the worthlessness of all that is called pleasure,
 For the hatefulness of all earthly standards of delight,
 For the revelation of thine own true beauty
 In things that are simple and eternal,
 In children's laughter, in the loveliness of nature
 In the beauty of self-denying devotion,
 In thine own life within human souls.

FOR GOD'S TEACHING OF HIS LOVE.

O thou who lovest, with divine passion,
 These thy poor creatures, whom thou hast made,
 With whom, in whom, thou for ever yearnest
 To endure, to triumph, and to die,
 Teach us to-day how we should love thee.

Show us how adorable thou art,
 Show us thy beauty, thy sufficiency, thy glory ;
 Reveal unto us, who are so lightly led away by things of
 time and sense,
 Thine own eternal loveliness : that loveliness which now
 and through eternity
 Shall satisfy our souls with divine contentment that can
 never fade nor fail.

Teach us to love thee, O our God—our Friend who art
 closer than child or wife,—
 Teach us to love thee, our Lover, who art nearer and sweeter
 than any earthly love,—
 Teach us to love thee, in whom all earthly love is con-
 summated and perfected :
 Receive us into thy divine communion, which is the life of
 the Universe
 And the exceeding sweet solace of our poor human hearts.

FOR HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER
RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Father,

We pray thee for the vision which sees beyond the things
of time and sense,

Beyond the vain attractions of this world, where we abide
for but a few days,

To the eternal realities—

To the deathless truth and beauty and love

For whose sake thou hast given us being.

We pray thee for strength to reject all passing pretence of
satisfaction

And to seize here and now on the eternal satisfactions,

On the things that pertain unto thyself and to the life that is
lived in thee.

Give us that nature which—while still living and working
in thy world

And rejoicing in all the good gifts which thou showerest
upon us—

Yet yearns continually for thee and thy righteousness,

For the heavenly companionships,

For the beauty and joy of the spiritual world,

For the divine character which thy grace can build up in
weak human lives.

FOR SUBMISSION TO GOD.

Lord of heaven and earth,
 Thou, who yearnest over the meanest and least of mankind
 As a mother over her firstborn :
 Thou who didst design and dost sustain the operation of
 those iron laws
 Whereby the Universe is upheld :
 Thou who deignest, very gently, very humbly, using no
 force and no constraint,
 To crave admittance within each worthless human heart :
 Make, O make us thy men to-day.

Teach us to love thee with a fire of joyous enthusiasm :
 Teach us to forget ourselves, as thou, clothing thyself with
 humility,
 Forgettest thine eternal glory to woo the sinful and the
 afflicted into fulness of life.

Teach us to become fountains and spring-heads
 Whence may break into the world of men
 Thine own rich, hidden nature of love.

Teach us to incarnate thee,
 So that our flesh may be but a garment
 Covering yet revealing the divine form beneath.

Teach us these things, O our Master,
 That thy holy will may be done on earth,
 And glory given everlastingly to thy name.

FOR PATRIOTISM.

Lord,

We pray thee for the love which, across all barriers,
 Maketh the lovers needful to each other,
 Bound by a blind organic necessity of their nature
 That naught in heaven or earth shall loose.

We pray that with this love we may love our country and
 our countrymen,
 Those who are mean and base and worthless
 As much as those who are noble.

Give us the patriotism which expresses itself in willing
 service
 Of those who outwardly repel us,
 Service which springs not from self-abnegation,
 But from a love deeper than our conscious will,
 A love which springs of itself from the depths where our
 nature is joined with them in thee.

Teach us the love which shall compel us,
 Of no virtue of our own, but of thy compulsive will working
 within us,
 To give ourselves unsparingly to the long hard task of
 freedom and reconciliation.

FOR LOVE TO GOD.

O Father and Friend,
 Thou who dost love us eternally,
 Who dost desire us for thyself—
 Not for the sake of anything we can do for thee
 Not for anything of goodness or purity within us
 (For of such there is nothing)—
 But simply because we are ourselves,
 And because thou lovest us for ourselves,—
 Teach us to love thee with this same great love.

Teach us to love thee, not for anything thou canst do for us,
 (Though all power is thine),
 Not for anything thou canst give to us,
 (Though in thee are all good gifts, and a divine generosity of
 sharing),
 Not for any quality or attribute of thy deity,
 But simply and wholly for thyself,
 Because thou art in thyself utterly and supremely lovable :

Because in loving thee and so alone
 Our hearts can know the perfection of exquisite and ultimate
 delight.

FOR SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS.

Father and King,
We pray thee for the quiet mind
Which, in the midst of hurry and turmoil,
Can at any time turn directly to thyself,
And be immediately at peace.

We pray thee for the enlightened imagination
Which gazes through form and delusion to reality,
Perceiving unerringly, of its own keen piercing insight,
Those eternal truths of the spirit
Which lie behind the pasteboard scenery of this world.

We pray thee for the mastered will
Which attunes us spontaneously and unconsciously to thy
will.

We pray thee for the life which is hid in thee,
The life that demands nothing for itself
But is wholly content in showing thee forth to men.

We pray thee for the stalwart faith,
Which gives unto us, whilst still we live here amongst men,
The facts and substance of eternal life
In a reality far beyond all other reality,
In a knowledge far transcending the knowledge of touch
and sight.

FOR PURITY OF HEART.

Our God,
Keep us this day clean and white,
Free from all taint of evil thought or low desire.

Purge from us all imperfection
By the swift floods of thy victorious spirit.

Possess our hearts by that affection for thy divine beauty
and truth
Which expels all base affections
And makes our souls white in the midst of the dark passions
of the world.

Give us thy joy in simple beauty and untarnished grace,
Thy heart of hale companionship, sharing in all clean
laughter, all honest merriment.

Make us single hearted in our devotion to all that is noble
and pure,
So that we may spurn all half-goods,
Thrusting from us every plausible substitute for the un-
compromising highest.

Save us from prudery from self-satisfaction, from a barren
puritanism,
That ours may be purity dynamic to exorcise the devils of
lust and wrong.

Make us clean with thine own triumphant purity,
Which cleanses the filth from the world, receiving no taint
itself,
And banishes impurity victoriously from earth to hell.

FOR GOD'S LESSON OF LOVE.

Our God,
We thank thee for human love,
Because—if it be pure—it is thyself,
It is humanity transfigured into divinity.

We pray thee this day for thy holy spirit upon our dear
ones,
For the grace of thy joyful companionship with them,
For thy rich stores of blessing on the work—whatever it
may be and in whatever distant sphere—
Which they perform this day for thee.

Lord, thou knowest that we love them,
Not for anything they can give us,
Not for the beauty and goodness, of their nature,
But only for themselves, because they are what they are.

Even so, O Lord, we know that thou lovest us feeble men,
Not for anything we can give thee (else wert thou poor
indeed for loving us),
Not for the beauty and goodness of our nature (else were
we beyond thy love),
But only for ourselves, because we are what we are.

Thou thyself knowest the blind omnipotent tyranny of
love,
For thus thou lovest us—the dust beneath thy feet.
Then take our human love to-day, that it may be potent
as thy love,
To redeem our beloved, to transfigure them, to clothe
them with thy divinity.

FOR STRENGTH OF PURPOSE.

Lord of the world,
 We pray thee master these our weak and vacillating wills
 With thine almighty, clear-discerning will—
 Thy will which loiters not, yet makes no haste,
 Thy will which sways the planets and the stars,
 Upholding the fabric of the universe,
 Yet entering also, very silently and sweetly,
 These feeble and fickle hearts of ours.

Give unto us, e'er we know that thou art near,
 Thine own divine strength and stability of purpose.

We would have working through our ineffectiveness thy
 quiet strength,
 Through our blind folly thy clear-eyed discernment,
 Through our changing impulses thy one direct and steady
 determination,
 Through our indecision thine unswerving judgment.

Transform us therefore by thine own presence within us,
 That so, being mastered and possessed by thee,
 We may find freedom in slavery,
 Entire liberty of our wills in entire subjection to thy will.

FOR FAMILY LOVE.

Father,

Grant unto us true family love,

That we may belong more entirely to those whom thou hast
given us,

Understanding each other, day by day, more instinctively,

Forbearing each other, day by day, more patiently,

Growing, day by day, more closely into oneness with each
other.

Father,

Thou too art love :

Thou knowest the depth of pain and the height of glory

Which abide continually in love :

Make us perfect in love for these our dear ones,

As knowing that without them we can never be made perfect
in thee.

Father,

Bring to full fruit in us thine own nature,—

That nature of humble redemptive devotion,

Which, out of two responsive souls,

Can create a new heaven and a new earth,

One eternal glory of divine self-sharing.

FOR MORAL COURAGE.

Lord and King,

We pray thee this day for courage to face unpopularity for
the sake of truth :

For courage to declare boldly our convictions, though they
make us despised :

For courage to break with evil custom and evil opinion,
Even though for so doing we are shunned and outcast.

Give us strong hearts that will not fear what any man may
do unto us,

Confident in the power of truth,—

Truth unsupported by numbers or resources,—

To establish itself supreme by its own inherent force,

Sovereign over all benighted and reactionary opposition.

Give us the courage of soul which can scorn the possession
of a good name amongst men,

Content to be alone with thee in the right,

Victorious over weak and craven sensitiveness to popular
opinion ;

Give us, O Lord, thy spirit of boldness, that we may trample
on our fear of our fellows,

Being strong in thee and very courageous.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE DEAR TO US.

Lover of all mankind,
We pray thee this day for those whom thou hast made dear
unto us ;

For thou knowest, Lord, the love that thou hast set with
us,

Thou knowest the blind necessity of that love,
The clinging and the craving that will not be denied.

Thou hast thyself made these things,
Hast thyself forged the bands that hold us remorselessly
Captives of joy, to those whom thou hast given us.

We pray thee for their well-being,
For their exceeding happiness,
For thy grace upon their souls,
For thy spirit springing up and blossoming in their lives.
That they may be servants and tools of thine.

We pray thee for the riveting ever more tightly
Of those iron bands of love and mutual need,
Whereby thou hast bound together ourselves and these our
dear ones.

FOR BLESSING IN A NEW DAY.

Redeemer and King,
 We thank thee for the beginning of a new day,
 For the dim twilight, the glowing sunrise,
 For the new hopes and the new opportunities,
 For the new consciousness of thine abiding care.
 Give us courage and strength for our work to-day,
 Give us steadfastness of purpose, patience, humility,
 Give us thine own love for those with whom we shall deal.

May we walk through this day with thy brand upon our
 foreheads,
 Men marked for God by the purity and simplicity of their
 life,
 Men breathed upon by the divine spirit,
 Men transfigured by the divine companionship,
 Men empowered by the divine indwelling, glorified by the
 divine radiance.

May these things be so with us,
 Yet grant, Lord, that—though they be so—
 We ourselves may know nothing of them.

For, though we desire exceedingly that thy presence and
 power may work through us,
 Yet we ourselves would be unconscious of that working,
 And we would have others unconscious of it also,
 That no glory may be given to us,
 But that thou alone mayest have all the praise.

FOR CONQUEST OVER SIN.

O thou who dost deliver us from ourselves,
 Purge us to-day from all that is of the beast within us,
 Drive from us all the leering and plausible devils of sin,
 Those devils which have been born within us of the sore
 struggle upward of our race,
 And which in the past by our own grievous fault we have
 pampered and encouraged.

Deliver us from all low uses of this matchless tool—
 This body which thou hast given us :
 This body of our death, which is yet thy temple, O Living
 God :
 This body which by a million years of agony
 Has been bought for us and built for us :
 This body wherein dwell grovelling the relics of that animal
 past
 Whereby it was created and fashioned :
 This body wherein dwell also, confident and glorious,
 The shining heralds of that ineffable future
 When God and man shall be one.

Give us conquest, O God, this day
 Over all the sins of the flesh,
 That thou mayest find free expression of thy divine being
 In these thy marred and crumbling habitations,
 Which shall become the chosen palaces of thine indwelling.

FOR VICTORY.

Saviour,

We pray thee to-day for victory over ourselves

For victory over the beast within us,

Over all dark lusts and selfish passions,

Which befoul our souls with the slime of that animal past

Whence humanity has arisen.

Give us victory over discouragement and despair

Over loneliness and grief,

Over weakness of purpose and vacillation of will.

Make us heralds of victory to the men around us,

Cheering them on in their sore conflict,

Sustaining those that fail,

Strengthening the faint and weary,

Caring for the wounded,

Rescuing the vanquished.

May we think not at all of ourselves, of our weakness and
wounds ;

But may we live only to fight for thee—

In ourselves and in others to win thy triumph.

THANKS FOR GOD'S PRESENCE AND HELP.

Master and Lord,

We thank thee that thou has overcome the world,

That in weakness and failure

Thou hast vanquished death and hell.

We bless thee that thou, who art omnipotent,

Dost strip thyself of omnipotence to put on our human
flesh :

That thou, who art all purity and love

Dost graciously enter these stained and selfish hearts of
ours.

We bless thee that thou dwellest not afar in heaven,

Beyond and above thy tortured world,

Serene and care-free in thy cool Paradise,

But that thou art here amongst us in the sultry darkness.

We bless thee that thou strivest with us in our struggles
after right,

That thou art vanquished with us in our failures,

That thou rejoicest with us in those brief and precarious
triumphs,

Which are all that our weakness and fickleness will permit
thee to win for us and in us.

FOR BALANCE AND LEISURE OF SOUL.

Father,

We pray thee for the poise and balance of soul

That will keep us, on this hand,

From immersion in the passing shadows and shows of the
world,

And on that hand from an unpractical otherworldliness,

Which is content—while men are perishing—

With a selfish and powerless cult of sentiment and emotion.

Give us the mind which is at home in thee,

Prizing beyond all earthly blessings

The joy of leisured communion with thyself,

Yet seeking night and day for some fresh service for mankind,

Whereby it may pay back some few poor coins

Of that incalculable debt

Which men owe to the God who clothes himself in humanity.

Help us to seize, with greedy zeal,

And to prize at its own immeasurable worth

The habit of true leisure—that deep leisure of soul,

Which is time spent in eternity :

Help us in such leisure to practice thy companionship,

To gain thence unfailing store of thy power and thy grace,

Through which alone we can triumph over sin and death.

THANKS FOR GOD'S SUFFICIENCY.

Father and King,
We thank thee for thy all-sufficiency :
We thank thee that, having thee, we have all things,
That with thee, though we are poor and destitute,
Yet are we lords of the world,
Kings of the East and the West,
Heirs of all ages, enriched by all nations and all times.

We thank thee that in humble fellowship with thee
We may share thy kingship and thy glory,
And in humility, poverty and weakness,
Be clothed upon with thine eternal majesty.

O Father, make our faith simple and childlike,
Our hearts open to all this regal beneficence
Which thou dost shower upon thy slaves
If only they are lowly enough to accept thy gifts.

THANKS FOR HOPE.

We thank thee, Lord,
 That however hopeless our work may seem
 However dark the night around us,
 However meagre the response to thy spirit
 Still thou hast ordained for us a hope.

We thank thee that we can never despair,
 Because we know, past all doubting,
 That here and there in this world thy kingdom has already
 come,
 Thy will has already begun to rule.

We thank thee that here and there are homes made beauti-
 ful by thy presence,
 Lives lived purely and faithfully for thee,
 Children and child-like souls whose clear and simple trust
 Brings thee thyself down amongst men.

 FOR RESOLUTION.

Master,
 Give us a resolute determination
 Never to be vanquished by the lower motive or the second
 best,
 By mistrust of thee,
 By forgetfulness of the sublime truth which once we have
 known.

Give us peace of heart in following thy will,
 In treading with thee the pathway of duty,
 In bearing loneliness, exile and pain
 That others may have pleasant homes
 In which thy spirit shall reign.

FOR GOD'S INDWELLING POWER.

Lord God of all the earth,
Who for ever fightest our battles and bearest our burdens
Scorning not to wear this human flesh,
The work of thy hands,
Which, through the long æons of thy creative evolution,
Thou didst mould and fashion wondrously
In agony and bloody sweat,
That it might at length express thyself
In manhood made fit to be thine incarnation upon earth ;
Succour, we beseech thee, our exceeding weakness.

Beat down, O our God, the beast within us,
Which for ever croucheth, watchful and remorseless,
To spring at our throat and tear us limb from limb.

Strengthen our feeble wills,
That we may choose the way of liberty and life,
Which is the way of thy divine purity.

Come with thine eternal youthfulness,
Thine eternal joy, thine eternal grace,
Into these dull and barren lives of ours.

Make these our lives white, radiant, triumphant.
Thy royal palaces,
Fit temples of thine indwelling.

FOR RACIAL RECONCILIATION.

God of all nations,
 We pray thee for all the peoples of thy earth :
 For those who are consumed in mutual hatred and bitter-
 ness :

For those who make bloody war upon their neighbours :
 For those who tyrannously oppress :
 For those who groan under cruelty and subjection.

We pray thee for all those who bear rule and responsibility :
 For child-races and dying races :
 For outcaste tribes, the backward and the downtrodden :
 For the ignorant, the wretched, the enslaved.

We beseech thee to teach mankind to live together in peace
 No man exploiting the weak, no man hating the strong,
 Each race working out its own destiny,
 Unfettered, self-respecting, fearless.

Teach us to be worthy of freedom,
 Free from social wrong, free from individual oppression and
 contempt,
 Pure of heart and hand, despising none, defrauding none,
 Giving to all men—in all the dealings of life—
 The honour we owe to those who are thy children,
 Whatever their colour, their race or their caste.

ENVOI.

Master,
Without thee we perish :—
A few years, and the earth knoweth us no more
We are dead for ever, lost and forgotten.

But with thee, in thee,
We live for ever :—
Here and now
We partake of thy sacrament of eternal life.

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